

Report for 2002TX65B: Information Transfer

- unclassified:
 - Gerston, Jan. December 2002. Water and Wastewater Utilities Enhance System Security. Texas Water Resources newsletter.
 - Jensen, Ric. September 2002. TWRI Mills Scholars Program Aids TAMU Graduate Students; Soil and Water Grants Support Research, Extension Efforts, Texas Water Resources newsletter.
 - Jensen, Ric. 2002. New Waves newsletter (3 issues).
 - Alexander, Rachel. 2002. Rio Grande Basin Initiative Outcomes newsletter (2 issues).

Report Follows:

Information Transfer Program
TWRI
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Articles describing research projects of the Texas Water Resources Institute (TWRI) were publicized in the “Texas Water Resources” and “New Waves” newsletters. These articles presented information about TWRI research to the public in easily understood terms.

At the same time, significant efforts were made to describe TWRI research projects on the World Wide Web. This includes a full description of each US Geological Survey (USGS) Project awarded by TWRI and links to popular articles.

Special efforts were made to obtain products of funded studies (for example, journal articles, papers, posters, and presentations) and to then make these available to the public. For example, more than 70 special reports and technical reports were web-posted during 2002 that summarize the results of Institute research.

TWRI continues efforts to assure the timely communication and dissemination of water resources news via email through the “TWRI WaterTalk” list server. More than 400 people now subscribe to the list server. They are sent 5 messages per day about water resources news, new books and other resources, and meetings and conferences.

Significantly, the list server is used to alert researchers and policy makers about opportunities to take part in funding opportunities and to form collaborations for building team partnerships.

As a result of publicizing these programs through the list server and Web site, TWRI has significantly increased the number of individuals that apply for competitive grants programs, including those funded by USGS and NIWR. This creates, in turn, more opportunities for collaborative research and extension efforts.

More than ever, TWRI is expanding its role to include several research and extension programs supported by external grants. For example, the Institute is working with Texas Cooperative Extension to manage the Rio Grande Basin Initiative, which is funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service (USDA/ CSREES). Other significant grants now being administered and publicized by the Institute include projects to market composted dairy manure, efforts to advance hydrologic modeling, and work to investigate the ecological effects of brush control.

In addition to publication and Web site, TWRI has been involved in several meetings, workshops, and conferences. Some of these efforts involve hosting or co-hosting events dealing with bacterial source tracking, the desalination of coastal and inland waters, advances in water related computer modeling, and other topics. Training supported by TWRI included the education of groundwater district managers, and training of small water systems personnel about wellhead protection.